

**HIGHLAND MAIN STREET MEETING**  
**Highland Town Hall- Highland, Indiana 46322**  
**April 4, 2019 MINUTES**

**Call to Order**

At 6:32 PM, the Highland Main Street (HMS) meeting was called to order by President Dawn Diamantopoulos at Highland Town Hall, 3333 Ridge Road in Highland, Indiana.

**Roll Call:**

The following were present: Board Members Dawn Diamantopoulos, Lola McKay, Doug Van Ramshorst, Julie Larson, Emily Foreit, Marie Russo, Teri Yovkovich, Kali Rasala, Kellie Shelton, and Redevelopment Assistant Lance Ryskamp. Board Members Renee Reinhart, Mary Ellis, Aubrey Velasquez and Mary Wells were absent. Also present was Nan Mason, Jacqui Herrera, Kelly Benoit, Ben Tomera, Lois Gard-Kish and Michael Blejski.

**Minutes:**

Lola McKay made a motion, seconded by Teri Yovkovich, to approve minutes from March 7, 2019 meetings. The motion passed on a voice vote 9-0.

The Redevelopment Assistant provided the Board with a Revenue/ Expense sheet to date for the Main Street budget.

The Redevelopment Assistant advised the Board of an upcoming construction project in Downtown in the coming months. The project will include: Highway Avenue, from Ridge Road to Delaware; Jewett, from Kennedy to 5<sup>th</sup> Street; and, 4<sup>th</sup> Street from Highway to Jewett. The downtown business owners present expressed their concern on how the project would be timed and sequenced, as well as the potential impact to their businesses. The Redevelopment Assistant said that the Redevelopment Department will reach out to Highland Public Works, who will be overseeing the project, to find out more specific information.

**Community Garden Committee**

The Redevelopment Assistant reported to the Board that a grant was received from the Lake County Master Gardeners Association as well as a donation from the Highland's Women's Club. He reported that there had been \$300 already received by the town, with another \$1200 pledged from other sources to date. Members of the Community Garden Committee indicated that there would be scheduling another committee meeting very soon.

**Events Committee**

The Redevelopment Assistant provided the Board with an overview report on Main Street events to date.

**Car Cruise**

The Redevelopment Assistant provided the Board with a Revenue/ Expense sheet to date for the Car Cruise. He advised the Board that sponsorships for the event were lagging behind 2018's totals. He said that there will be a final push made on this prior to the April 19<sup>th</sup> sponsorship deadline.

**Last Call For Summer**

The Redevelopment Assistant provided the Board with a revised draft site plan and an overview of issues to decide on the event. Julie Larson made a motion, seconded by Lola McKay, to accept the draft site plan as presented in order for it to be brought to the Highland Park Board for their review and approval on April 18<sup>th</sup>. The motion passed unanimously by a 9-0 vote. The Redevelopment Assistant reported that after asking for interest from Highland restaurants, only Beer Geeks and last year's vendor, 95ATE5 Brewpub, expressed interest in operating the beer garden. Doug Van Ramshorst made a motion, seconded by Marie Russo, to have Beer Geeks

operate the beer garden. The motion passed unanimously, 9-0. Doug Van Ramshorst reported that Board member Mary Wells would have a craft booth tent onsite at the event for children to participate in. Other children activities will be worked out by the Events Committee. The Redevelopment Assistant reported that, to date, 2018 musicians Fragile Soul, Belladonna and Chris Peters were interested in performing at this year's event. Teri Yovkovich said she knew of another possible band, Serial Mouse, who might be available. The Redevelopment Assistant said he would be sending out food vendor applications to Highland restaurants.

### **Festival of the Trail**

The Redevelopment Assistant said he would be sending out vendor booth applications. He said that Zandstra's Farm and Greenhouse had agreed to have a Farmers Market and serve as the alternate event site again, as they had in 2018. The Redevelopment Assistant asked the Board if they wished to once again have food trucks operate at the event, and the consensus was that there should be food trucks. The Redevelopment Assistant said he would start to reach out for 2-3 possible trucks to be part of the festival.

### **Art Committee**

#### **Downtown Sculpture**

The Redevelopment Assistant reported that material changes to the Public Call, along with a subsequent decision by Dyer Art Visionaries to withdraw their funding due to those changes, forced the public vote on a new downtown sculpture to be withdrawn.

### **Design/ Aesthetics & Historic Preservation Committee**

The Redevelopment Assistant reported that there were four ongoing Community Property Improvement Grant projects: Highland Office Center; the former Anthony's restaurant; Siemer Heating & Cooling; and, the former 85 Degrees. In addition, he reported on plans for the demolition of the former Kiddie Shop on Highway and 2<sup>nd</sup>, as well as the former Maria's Buena Cocina, at 8620 Kennedy.

### **Downtown Promotions Committee**

Kelly Benoit, owner of Erna and Company, proposed to the Board a new festival series, called "3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays", to be held from May through September. The events would require that Jewett Street be closed from Kennedy to 4<sup>th</sup> Street, and would feature vendors of various types. She said that she had experience working these types of events and said she likely already had 19 vendors who would sign up to participate. Booth rental would be \$125 for a 10' x 20' space without electricity. The Redevelopment Commission Assistant said that to close off Jewett Street the Police Department would have to be advised for their approval. In addition, he said that the summer road work downtown would likely impact at least on some of the dates proposed. After a discussion, the consensus of the Board was to go forward with the event. The Redevelopment Assistant said he would bring it to the Redevelopment Commission at their April 15<sup>th</sup> meeting for their review and approval, subject to the road work and the Police Department's approval.

There was additional discussion as to when to have the first downtown sidewalk sale. Because of the road project, there was discussion of holding one during the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Festival on Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup>. Also, Teri Yovkovich suggested possibly holding a "Dog Blessing" downtown during the summer.

### **Discussion**

None.

### **Adjournment**

With no further business, Marie Russo made a motion, seconded by Lola McKay, to adjourn. It passed on a voice vote 9-0. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM.